

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-12 /102 W

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O R 011235Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6733

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD,UZY

SUBJECT: SEBHA JOINT STATEMENT

SUMMARY: AFTER AN UNEXPLAINED DELAY OF FIVE DAYS, EIGHT-POINT DECLARATION AGREED TO BY SEBHA II CONFERENCE WAS PUBLISHED IN CHAD TODAY. EDITORIAL COMMENT ACCOMPANYING PUBLICATION LAUDED DECLARATION AS AN ACT WHICH WOULD BE ENSHRINED IN THE HISTORY OF CHAD AND AFRICA, AND AS FURNISHING THE BASIS FOR A PEACEFUL AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THE CHADIAN PROBLEM. DESPITE THIS PRAISE, ONLY OFFICIAL CHADIAN COMMENTS WERE TWO QUOTES OF IVCE PRESIDENT DJIME: THE FIRST OF WHICH STATED THAT WHILE THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE NOT NEGLIGIBLE, THEY FELL FAR
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SHORT OF THE GOVERNMENTS AIMS; AND THE SECOND OF WHICH EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE JUNE 7 TRIPOLI CONFERENCE WOULD ACHIEVE MORE POSITIVE RESULTS.

1. TEXT OF DECLARATION IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THOSE SUBMITTED BY HKARTOUM 1404 AND TRIPOLI 0473. HOWEVER, ARTICLE FIVE IN REGARD TO FOREIGN

TROOPS IS WORDED IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FASHION (MAY BE RESULT OF FRENCH TRANSLATION). IT STATES THAT GOVERNMENT AND FORLINAT (GOUKOUNI-LED REBELS) AGREE TO OFFER ALL FACILITIES TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE FOREIGN TROOPS OR BASES IN CHAD.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTED THAT ACCORD WAS NOT REACHED WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT FROLINATS PRECONDITIONS WERE EXCESSIVE. THESE PRECONDITIONS WERE THE RECOGNITION OF FROLINAT AND THE EXPULSION OF FOREIGN TROOPS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH. IT LEAVES TO THE READER TO ESTABLISH JUST WHAT COMPROMISES WERE INVOLVED IN OVERCOMING THESE PRECONDITIONS. THE EIGHT POINTS GRANT FROLINAT RECOGNITION BUT DO NOT STATE JUST WHAT SUCH RECOGNITION MEANS, AND WHILE THEY CALL FOR ESTABLISHING THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS NO MENTION IS MADE OF EXPULSION.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS WE RE IN FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS OF INDECISION WITH EACH SIDE PROBABLY INTERPRETING THE DECLARATION IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FASHION, ALTHOUGH BOTH PROBABLY WANT TO APPEAR CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLICILY TO BE ABIDING BY IT. TO THIS END, GOVERNMENT COULD WELL FEEL IMPELLED TO TAKE SOME MINIMAL ACTIONS AGAINST QUOTED IMPERIALIST UNQUOTE PRESENCE IN CHAD, BUT WILL DESIRE TO TARGET ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN THE ESSENTIAL FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT. PRESENCE OF LIBYAN MILITARY AS PART OF JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION WILL MAKE OVERLOOKING FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE DIFFICULT AND EMBARRASSING, BUT UNLESS MALLOUM INTENDS TO CAVE IN COMPLETELY, HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE. SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS MAY WELL END UP TARGETS OPPORTUNITY IN THIS EXERCISE. WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER FIX ON THIS WHEN I SEE VICE PRESIDENT NEXT WEEK.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, PRESIDENT MALLOUM IS FACED WITH A DECISION AS TO WHETHER HE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE INCLUSION OF NON-GOUKOUNI REBEL LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AS HE HAD EARLIER AGREED WITH HISSEN HABRE, OR WHETHER HE SHOULD DELAY ANY CHANGE UNTIL AFTER THE JUNE 7 TRIPOLI MEETING. INFORMAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT INSTALLED IN TIME FOR APRIL 13 INDEPENDENCE

DAY, BUT THIS IS NOW EVIDENTLY BEING RE-DEBATED
WITHIN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

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